



NW NBHA IS CHANGING

November 29, 2021

Greeting NW NBHA members,

Your northwest regional leadership has been in ongoing meetings and discussions with the National Barrel Horse Association alongside your district directors, as to our need for their support to continue to grow as an organization.

We have emphasized that financial and in-person support for our Finals is in the best interest of our membership. In the past several years, we have not received commitment for this support from the National level and it has become necessary to make changes that are in the best interest of our members. After careful deliberation and decision-making, your district directors - including input from a variety of stakeholders, have decided to create a new organization, and become **NWBHA – Northwest Barrel Horse Association**.

The one opportunity we forego is the ability for our division winners from Finals as well as the top 10 in each district to compete at the National NBHA show. Since 2015, we have had 2 contestants from our region participate at the National show. Simply put, competing at the NBHA National show is not a driving force for our 600+ members to remain with the national NBHA organization; rather most members join to participate in district shows and our Finals.

We are currently working to achieve not-for-profit and 501c(3) tax exempt status which will allow us to solicit larger sponsorships and donations. This in no way affects our current sponsors and supporters who we wish to continue to partner with.

What does this mean?

This means we will no longer be affiliated with the National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA). We will become the **NWBHA – Northwest Barrel Horse Association**. All membership fees will then stay within our region and NWBHA can provide a more spectacular Finals event, as well as increasing district support.

Why are you doing this?

The NWBHA will benefit directly from all of the member fees and will keep them within our region and our association.

Here is your \$65 NBHA Membership fee is currently broken out:

Barrel Horse News Magazine Subscription	\$22.00
District Commission (to be used at District discretion)	\$2.62
Matching Funds for Finals	\$1.75
National NBHA Keeps	\$38.63

For every member, National NBHA gives back \$4.37 out of the \$65 membership fee; 6% of what our members contribute. With approximately 600 members in the northwest, National NBHA keeps \$23,178 per year.

The annual NWBHA Membership fee will be \$55 per contestant. By creating a new, standalone organization, all membership funds will remain in the northwest.



Will I be able to keep my Barrel Horse News subscription?

A subscription will not be part of your NWBHA membership; however, you may renew a stand-alone subscription at BarrelHorseNews.com.

How does this affect my current NBHA membership?

Those current NBHA memberships with expiration dates of September 2022 through December 2022 will be allowed to roll to NWBHA for the 2022 year. All 3-year NBHA memberships will be honored. All qualifiers earned in 2021 will be honored toward the 2022 Finals. Once your national NBHA membership expires, you will need to join NWBHA to participate at our Finals event. The membership date for NWBHA is October 1 – September 30 annually. You may join at any time during the year, but the expiration will be September 30. We realize there will be some timing issues for members, in which case we will work with you to determine the best and most seamless transition possible.

Will there still be district races?

Yes! Our goal is to maintain the same (or very similar) format to qualifying for both district awards and for our finals event.

Will the age groups stay the same?

Mostly. Currently, we plan to continue with the age group structure. *Pee Wee* will change to 9 and under as of Finals (*Pee Wees* will not need a NWBHA Membership, nor will they be required to compete at 3 qualifying races). *Youth* will be 17 and under as of January 1st. *Senior* will remain 45 and Over.

At Finals, we will continue to split our 17 and Under into two groups: *Youth* (12 and Under as of January 1) and *Junior* (13-17 as of January 1) age groups. Contestants cannot cross enter from *Pee Wee* to any other division.

Will you offer the same and new divisions?

For now, we will continue to offer *Open*, *Youth*, *Senior*, and *Pee Wee* at the District level, along with the *Youth/Junior* split at Finals. District directors and leadership will continue to discuss additional options at our annual meeting.

Will qualifying dates remain the same?

No. Finals will remain in September with qualifying dates of October 1 to September 30. Races after Finals will count as qualifiers for the following year.

Will you still allow co-sanctions?

Yes. We welcome both prime NWBHA and co-sanctions from all race producers.

As we move forward, state and district directors will be working toward completing a full rulebook. Beginning December 1st, our branding updates will begin to roll out at the regional and district level. We are also working on a new website, which will be announced at a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact your district directors or regional directors, Amber Gray and Lisa Lee.

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